

Appl. No. 10/758,788

Amdt. Dated December 19, 2005

Response to Office Action of September 19, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A food and drink managing device with a circulation type-carrying path for providing containers carrying foods and drinks to customers by an endless circulating carrying path, comprising:

an identification information reading means for reading identification information on containers, adapted to identify individual containers, and provided near said circulating carrying path,

at least one sign part circulating and circularly moving as linked with said circulating carrying path,

a pass-through passage detection means provided near said circulating carrying path to detect passing-through passage of said sign parts,

a registering means connected to said identification information reading means and said pass-through passage detection means, which divides recognizes an interval between passing sign parts as one zone, and registers the identification information of the containers read by said identification information reading means, as foods and drinks are being supplied, —by coordinating it with in relation to a zone in which the containers exist, and

a container throwing-in prohibited area ~~with of a given length provided in an upstream side of the circulating carrying path~~ from a position of the identification information reading means ~~towards an upper side of said circulating carrying path~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said container throwing-in prohibited area comprises a throwing-in protecting wall ~~going along~~ said circulating carrying path.

16. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said container throwing-in prohibited area comprises a tunnel-shaped-cover that covers the containers.

17. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said identification information reading means is positioned inside said tunnel-shaped-cover, and further comprising an electromagnet shield on said tunnel-shaped-cover.

18. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein ~~each of said at least one a plurality of said sign parts is are~~ positioned in an at almost equal regular intervals on said circulating carrying path.

19. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 15, wherein ~~each of said at least one a plurality of said sign parts is are~~ positioned in an at almost equal regular intervals on said circulating carrying path.

20. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein ~~each of said at least one a plurality of said sign parts is are~~ positioned in an at almost equal regular intervals on said circulating carrying path.

21. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 17, wherein ~~each of said at least one a plurality of said sign parts is are~~ positioned ~~in an~~ at almost equal regular intervals on said circulating carrying path.

22. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said ~~at least one~~ sign part has sign identification information readable by said identification information reading means, and said identification information reading means is combined with said ~~pass-through~~ passage detection means.

23. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 15, wherein said ~~at least one~~ sign part has sign identification information readable by said identification information reading means, and said identification information reading means is combined with said ~~pass-through~~ passage detection means.

24. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said ~~at least one~~ sign part has sign identification information readable by said identification information reading means, and said identification information reading means is combined with said ~~pass-through~~ passage detection means.

25. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 17, wherein said ~~at least one~~ sign part has sign identification information readable by said identification information reading means, and said identification information reading means is combined with said ~~pass-through~~ passage detection means.

26. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said registering means, when detecting new

identification information from said identification information reading means, registers the identification information with related time information in that moment.

27. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 15, wherein said registering means, when detecting new identification information from said identification information reading means, registers the identification information with related time information in that moment.

28. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said registering means, when detecting new identification information from said identification information reading means, registers the identification information with related time information in that moment.

29. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 17, wherein said registering means, when detecting new identification information from said identification information reading means, registers the identification information with related time information in that moment.

30. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said registering means, when said ~~at least one~~ sign part in a ~~lower~~ downstream side of said zone passes and the identification information registered as ~~supplied~~ food and drink ~~being supplied by coordinating said information with in relation to~~ the zone is not be detected, changes the record of identification information to ~~one of~~ a removed food and drink, and registers time information of said ~~registering record~~ change by ~~coordinating it with in relation to the~~ identification information, and further, holds said registration ~~in~~ for a specified time.

31. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 15, wherein said registering means, when said ~~at least one~~ sign part in a ~~lower~~ downstream side of said zone passes and the identification information registered as ~~supplied~~ food and drink ~~being supplied by coordinating said information with in~~

relation to the zone is not be detected, changes the record of identification information to one of a removed food and drink, and registers time information of said registering record change by coördinating it with in relation to the identification information, and further, holds said registration in for a specified time.

32. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said registering means, when said ~~at least one~~ sign part in a ~~lower~~ downstream side of said zone passes and the identification information registered as ~~supplied~~ food and drink ~~being supplied by coördinating said information with in relation to~~ the zone is not be detected, changes the record of identification information to one of a removed food and drink, and registers time information of said registering record change by ~~coördinating it with in relation to the~~ identification information, and further, holds said registration ~~in~~ for a specified time.

33. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 17, wherein said registering means, when said ~~at least one~~ sign part in a ~~lower~~ downstream side of said zone passes and the identification information registered as ~~supplied~~ food and drink ~~being supplied by coördinating said information with in relation to~~ the zone is not be detected, changes the record of identification information to one of a removed food and drink, and registers time information of said registering record change by ~~coördinating it with in relation to the~~ identification information, and further, holds said registration ~~in~~ for a specified time.

34. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 30, wherein said registering means changes said specified ~~retention~~ time for said registration of the removed food and drink.

35. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said identification information reading means reads the identification information given on said container without contacting the container.

36. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 15, wherein said identification information reading means reads the identification information given on said container without contacting the container.

37. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said identification information reading means reads the identification information given on said container without contacting the container.

38. (Previously Presented) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 17, wherein said identification information reading means reads the identification information given on said container without contacting the container.

39. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 35, wherein for providing the identification information is provided to said container, said container has via an identification tag, which sends identification as stored identification information by wireless means ~~to a container~~.

40. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said identification information identifies includes price information of foods and drinks.

41. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 15, wherein said identification information identifies includes price information of foods and drinks.

42. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said identification information identifies includes price information of foods and drinks.

43. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 17, wherein said identification information identifies includes price information of foods and drinks.

44. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said identification information reading means is provided ~~on a lower part, near adjacent to~~ a throwing-in area, of the circulating carrying path and downstream from the throwing-in area.

45. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 15, wherein said identification information reading means is provided ~~on a lower part, near adjacent to~~ a throwing-in area, of the circulating carrying path and downstream from the throwing-in area.

46. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said identification information reading means is provided ~~on a lower part, near adjacent to~~ a throwing-in area, of the circulating carrying path and downstream from the throwing-in area.

47. (Currently Amended) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 17, wherein said identification information reading means is provided ~~on a lower part, near adjacent to~~ a throwing-in area, of the circulating carrying path and in downstream from the throwing-in area.